

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. No new matter is added with the amendments presented herein. Entry and consideration of the amendments is respectfully requested.

**LISTINGS OF CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination device for display systems comprising:  
a circuit board;  
a plurality of light sources distributed on ~~a plane~~ the circuit board with a light distribution surface area<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup>; and  
at least one light diffusing plate optically coupled to the plurality of light sources and having a light incidence area for receiving light from the plurality of light sources, wherein the light distribution surface area 'S<sup>2</sup>' is ~~at least~~ greater than the light incidence area of the at least one light-diffusing plate; and  
a device case enclosing the plurality of light sources, wherein the device case comprises a plurality of sidewalls having an inner surface configured to reflect light from the plurality of light sources, wherein ~~each sidewall a portion of at least one of the~~ plurality of sidewalls of the device case and the circuit board form is inclined at an angle in the range of about 60 degrees to less than 90 degrees relative to the plane of the plurality of light sources.

2. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein further the display system comprises comprising a display panel having a display area for displaying images, wherein

the display panel is optically coupled to the at least one light-diffusing plate; and  
the light incidence area of the at least one light-diffusing plate corresponds to the display  
area.

3. (Previously Presented) An illumination device according to claim 2, wherein  
the display area has a width 'A' and a length 'B';  
each one of the plurality of light sources is separated from adjacent light sources by a pitch  
'G'; and

the light distribution surface area S is confined to the range defined by  $(A+G) \times (B+G) \leq S$   
 $\leq (A + 3G) \times (B + 3G)$ .

4. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 2, wherein the display  
panel is a liquid crystal display panel.

5. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of  
light sources are light emitting diodes.

6. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of  
light sources are distributed in an array.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein a portion of at least one of the plurality of sidewalls of the device case is curved.

10. (Previously Presented) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein the inner surface of at least one of the plurality of sidewalls of the device case is configured to scatter light within the device case.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to claim 1-3, wherein

the light distribution surface area has a length 'M' and the at least one side of the display area that is substantially parallel to the at least one side edge surface of the light guide plate has a length 'B';

each one of the plurality of light sources is separated from adjacent light sources by a pitch 'G'; and

the length 'M' is confined to the range defined by  $(B + G) \leq M \leq (B + 3G)$ .

15-24. (Cancelled)